

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-9, 11-14, 16-20 and 22 presently are pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

Claims 2-6, 11-13, 16-19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (JP 11-78411) and further in view of Sato (JP 11-78410), Sinopoli (US 5,743,975) and Koch (US 6,012,498). Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato '411, Sato '410, Sinopoli, and Koch as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Bourgois (US 5,198,307). Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato '411, Sato '410, Sinopoli, and Koch as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Kawase (US 3,929,180). Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato '411, Sato '410, Sinopoli, and Koch as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Mechanics of Pneumatic Tires (page 881).

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 2 to recite that a number of metal wires in the metal wire bundles is 3 to 9. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references do not teach or suggest this feature of amended claim 2.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
U.S. Application No. 09/853,674

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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